

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00
PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 DOTE-00
FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 /110 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6161
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, EWWT, IMCO, NL
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON MARINE OIL
POLLUTION: USDEL VISITS TO CAPITALS

DEPARTMENT PASS DOT AND COAST GUARD

1. SUMMARY: THE USDEL (RADM WALLACE, DIAMANTI, AND
LAKEY, ACCOMPANIED BY ECON COUNSELOR DUNN OF EMBASSY THE
HAGUE) HELD LONG AND USEFUL DISCUSSION WITH DUTCH SHIP-
PING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES JULY 14 AT THE
HAGUE. THE DUTCH INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEOT
40,000 DWT AS LOWER LIMIT FOR INTERNATIONALLY AGREED CON-
STRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS AND EVEN TO CONSIDER A

LOWER SIZE LIMIT. THEY MAY BE READY TO WORK OUT A COM-
PROMISE WITH SWEDEN ON THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL TO DELAY
ENTRY INTO FORCE OF ANNEX II TO MARPOL 73, PROVIDED IT
CAN BE COUPLED BY A FIXED DATE TO ENTRY INTO FORCE OF
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ANNEX I. THEY "HAVE ALMOST NO PROBLEMS" WITH US VIEWS ON
INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION, INERT GAS SYSTEMS, SECOND
RADAR WITH COLLISION AVOIDANCE EQUIPMENT, IMPROVED
EMERGENCY STEERING STANDARDS, AND ALTERNATIVES AND
INTERIM MEASURES PROPOSED THUS FAR. THEY HOPE DOUBLE
BOTTOMS WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN US LEGISLATION, AND ARE
EAGER TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION FOR SEGREGATED

BALLAST TANKS. THEY VOICED FEARS THAT US UNILATERAL ACTION WOULD ENCOURAGE UNILATERAL ACTION BY OTHER COUNTRIES AND FEAR THAT IT WOULD BE "THE END OF IMCO." THEY ARE, THEREFORE, INCLINED TO COME AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TOWARD THE US PROPOSALS. THE EXCHANGES WERE CANDID AND CORDIAL ON BOTH SIDES. THE VISIT WAS PRODUCTIVE AND MUCH APPRECIATED BY DUTCH REPRESENTATIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. USDEL MET JULY 14 WITH MESSRS. H. J. H. JANSSEN' DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND WATERWAYS; J. F. VAN DOORN, DIRECTOR, NAUTICAL AND TECHNICAL DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING; H. O. G. TEN RAA, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEPT., DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING; B. B. VAN DER MEER, DIRECTOR OF DIVISION FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING; AND DR. C. L. C. MEIJER OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, IN THE HAGUE.

3. DUTCH DELEGATION BEGAN BY STATING THAT THEY PREFERRED OPERATIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE OPERATIONAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS. THEY, THEREFORE, WERE CONCERNED THAT US DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVES IN IMCO SEEMED TO BE LIMITED TO CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OPTIONS. THEY SEEMED RELIEVED WHEN RADM WALLACE REITERATED US COULD CONSIDER OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED THAT IT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY WOULD AFFORD EQUIVALENT PROTECTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF TANKER SAFETY.

4. DUTCH ALSO CHARACTERIZED RETROFIT OF SEGREGATED BALLAST TANKS (SBT) IN EXISTING SHIPS "ECONOMICALLY DISASTROUS," BUT ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER RESULTS OF OECD STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SBT RETROFIT. THEY DO AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT CRUDE OIL WASHING (COW) IN TERMS DISCUSSED THUS FAR IS ONLY A SUPPLEMENT, NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO SBT. THEY REPEATEDLY STRESSED PREFERENCE FOR CONTROL OF OPERATIONAL POLLUTION BY OPERATIONAL MEANS (E.G., IMPROVED LOAD ON TOP WITH TOUGH ENFORCEMENT).

5. DUTCH DELEGATION STATED THEY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING US PROPOSALS AND THAT GON IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER 40,000 DWT ACROSS THE BOARD ON CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS, AND "MAYBE CAN GO LOWER."

6. THE TWO DELEGATIONS THEN REVIEWED THE AGENDA FOR TSPP III, DURING WHICH THE DUTCH DELEGATION REPEATEDLY INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE USDEL TO

MOVE THE PROGRAM FORWARD. SPECIFICALLY:

(A) CONCERNING SBT: DUTCH, WHILE WILLING TO AGREE
TO SBT ON NEW TANKERS, STILL HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT

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EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00
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RETROFIT SBT, BASED ON THE USUAL ECONOMIC GROUNDS PLUS
THEIR DOUBT ABOUT THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF RETROFIT
SBT ON PURELY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS. THEY EXPRESSED
SOME HOPE THAT COW COULD SOMEHOW BE MADE AN ALTERNATIVE
ON EXISTING SHIPS, BUT ADMITTED THAT PROBLEM OF CONTROL
WAS VERY GREAT (ESPECIALLY ON SOME FLAG OF CONVENIENCE
SHIPS).

(B) CONCERNING DOUBLE BOTTOMS (DB): DUTCH ARE READY
SERIOUSLY TO CONSIDER DEFENSIVE PLACEMENT OF SBT AS
ALTERNATIVE. THEY REALIZE THAT SPINELLI PROPOSAL IS
BASED ON EARLIER US RULE-MAKING, ARE VERY INTERESTED IN
DEVELOPING THE CONCEPT, AND SEE SPINELLI FORMULA AS THE
DIRECTION TO MOVE.

(C) CONCERNING INERT GAS SYSTEMS (IGS): WHEN DUTCH

DELEGATION WAS INFORMED ABOUT THE DANISH IDEA OF CORRIDOR
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DISCUSSION ON IGS, AND DEFERRAL BY THE CHAIRMAN OF DIS-
CUSSION IN PLENARY UNTIL CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS COULD
TAKE PLACE, SAID THEY HAD BEEN THINKING "ALONG THE SAME
LINES." THEY FAVOR THE IDEA OF HAVING A SMALL GROUP
PREPARE A WORKING PAPER AND VOLUNTEERED TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE SMALL GROUP. DUTCH SEEM TO BE AMBIVALENT ON
USE OF IGS ON PRODUCT TANKERS, AND WILL HAVE A SHELL
TANKER MAN ON THEIR DELEGATION WHO WILL SPEAK ON IGS
"CONTAMINATION."

(D) CONCERNING ALTERNATIVES: THE DUTCH CONSIDERED
THE FRG "PROPOSAL" (PARA 29 OF TSPP II/5) MERELY A
COMMENT RATHER THAN A PROPOSAL. THEY SEEMED TO AGREE
THAT IF THE PROBLEMS OF CONTROL IN THE ITALIAN PROPOSAL
(PARA 27 OF TSPP II/5) COULD NOT BE SATISFACTORILY
RESOLVED, WE COULD CLEAR THE TABLE AND MOVE ON.

(E) CONCERNING INTERIM MEASURES: THE DUTCH AGREED
THAT SWEDISH PROPOSAL OF DEDICATED CLEAN BALLAST TANKS
(CBT) WAS ONLY AN INTERIM MEASURE AND COULD NOT BE
UPGRADED TO AN ALTERNATIVE TO SBT.

(F) CONCERNING IMPROVED EMERGENCY STEERING STANDARDS
FOR ALL TANKERS: DUTCH WERE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE AN
ADVANCE COPY OF THE US NOTE AND INDICATED THEY FAVOR
QUICK REACTION TIME BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF THEIR
NARROW AND CONGESTED WATERS. DUTCH FAVOR EFFECTIVE
EMERGENCY STEERING MEASURES FOR ALL SHIPS AND WILL SUPPORT
A SECOND STAGE PROPOSAL (AFTER FEBRUARY CONFERENCE) TO
IMPROVE EMERGENCY STEERING STANDARDS TO APPLY TO ALL
SHIPS, NOT JUST TANKERS.

(G) CONCERNING THE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS: DUTCH APPRE-
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CIATED RECEIPT OF ADVANCE COPY OF US DRAFT PROTOCOLS
TO 1973 MARPOL AND 1974 SOLAS, AND SAID WE WERE "ON THE
SAME FREQUENCY." THEY HAD THOUGHT ABOUT THE LEGAL
INSTRUMENTS, HAD DECIDED THAT PROTOCOLS WERE THE CORRECT
ANSWER, BUT HAD HAD NO LEGAL SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PRE-
PARE A DUTCH DRAFT (DUE TO LOS MEETINGS).

(H) CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINT MSC/MEPC

MEETING IN OCTOBER: DUTCH AGREE THAT NEW ITEMS SHOULD BE HELD TO A MINIMUM AT OCTOBER MEETING. DUTCH HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH SECOND RADAR BUT THEY WANT BRIDGE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS GENERAL, "SO THAT A SHIP DOESN'T NEED DIFFERENT EQUIPMENT FOR EACH PORT." (READ: COMPLAINT ABOUT LORAN-C.)

(I) CONCERNING OTHER MATTERS: THE DUTCH MAY BE ON THE POINT OF CHANGING THEIR POSITION ON THE DATE OF COMING INTO FORCE OF ANNEX II TO MARPOL 73. AFTER HEARING RADM WALLACE'S EXPLANATION OF US UNDERSTANDING OF SWEDISH PROPOSAL TO SPLIT THE COMING INTO FORCE OF ANNEXES I AND II, BUT COUPLED WITH A FIXED DATE FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF ANNEX II AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF ANNEX I, DUTCH INDICATED THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE "TWO DATES" CONCEPT. THEY AGREED THAT THEY SHOULD SEE IF THEY CAN REACH SOME AGREEMENT WITH THE SWEDES NEXT WEEK AND WOULD WELCOME US SITTING IN ON THE DISCUSSION. AS REGARDS THE IMCO STANDARDS FOR ANNEX II BEING PREPARED BY THE BULK CHEMICALS SUBCOMMITTEE, TEN RAA INDICATED THAT THE DUTCH WOULD NOW BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A MORE GENERAL APPROACH RATHER THAN THE DETAILED APPROACH THEY HAD SOUGHT IN THE PAST. (HOWEVER, IN A SEPARATE DISCUSSION VAN DOORN SAID HE FELT THAT STANDARDS FOR BULK CHEMICALS SHOULD BE DETAILED AND STRICT.)

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7. COMMENTS: THE DUTCH SEEM TO HAVE A SENSITIVITY ABOUT FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE WHICH GOES BEYOND "SUB-STANDARD SHIPS." AMONG OTHER COMPLAINTS, THEY SEE FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE AS CAUSING COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGES TO FLEETS SUCH AS THEIRS. THEY WOULD BE HAPPY IF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS CEASED TO EXIST. THE DUTCH ARE VERY CONCERNED THAT IMCO MIGHT FALL SHORT OF US EXPECTATIONS ON ACHIEVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, WHICH COULD CAUSE THE US TO ACT UNILATERALLY. THAT, THEY SAY, WOULD BE "THE END OF IMCO" AND WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY AN AVALANCHE OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS. SINCE THEY NEED IMCO, THEY WANT TO COME AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TOWARD THE US PROPOSALS, NOT NECESSARILY TO PLEASE US, BUT TO SAFEGUARD IMCO. THE DUTCH, LIKE THE OTHER COUNTRIES VISITED BY THE USDEL, WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED TO HAVE THE VISIT. THEY RESPONDED TO OUR CANDOR WITH UNUSUAL CANDOR OF THEIR OWN (E.G., WILLINGNESS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS FOR SHIPS EVEN BELOW 40,000 DWT, AND ADMISSION THAT THEIR PREVIOUS POSITION ON ANNEX II MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO STRICT). CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IS VERY HIGH IN THE NETHERLANDS. THEIR MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS HAVING AN IMPACT ON DUTCH SHIPPING POLICY. AS A SMALL COUNTRY THAT MUST DEPEND ON SHIPPING FOR ITS ECONOMIC LIFE, THE DUTCH KNOW THAT THEIR SHIPING POLICIES MUST NOT BE DOMINATED BY PRESSURES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS. NONETHELESS, ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ARE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AND ARE TREATED WITH RESPECT BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN OTHER FIELDS. FYI: RELATIONS BETWEEN MEIJER FROM ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY AND OFFICIALS FROM SHIPPING DIRECTORATE SEEMED MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE AND FREE OF TURF GUARDING. MEIJER COMMENTED AT END OF MEETING THAT HE HAD ENJOYED IT THOROUGHLY AND HAD GAINED UNDERSTANDING OF THE US PROPOSALS AND CORRESPONDING DUTCH VIEWS WHICH HE COULD NEVER HAVE DEVELOPED BY READING PAPERS. END FYI.

8. USDEL SENDS.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, POLLUTION, VISITS, COAST GUARDS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PORG, EWWT, NL, IMCO
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